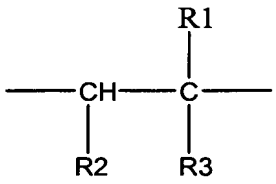
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A transparent heat-resistant resin~~ An optical compensating film ~~material~~, comprising:

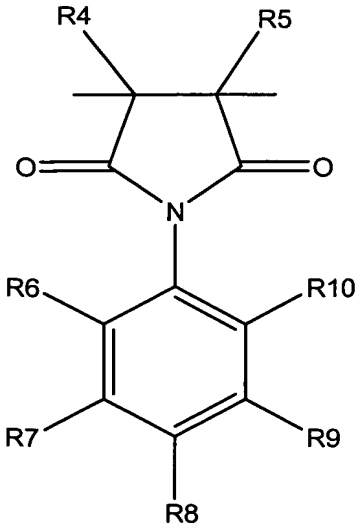
a copolymer consisting essentially of an olefin residue unit represented by the following formula (i):



(i)

wherein R1, R2, and R3 each represents hydrogen or an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and

an N-phenyl-substituted maleimide residue unit represented by the following formula (ii):



(ii)

wherein

R4 and R5 each represents hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms;

R7, R8, and R9 each represents hydrogen, a halogen based element, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a linear or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms; and

R6 and R10 each represents hydrogen, a halogen based element, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a linear or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and

when at least one of R6 or R10 represents hydrogen, the other should not be hydrogen but represent a halogen based element, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a linear or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms,

the copolymer having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of from 5×10^3 to 5×10^6, ~~and~~

~~the transparent heat-resistant resin optical material exhibiting negative birefringence~~

the optical compensating film being obtained by uniaxially stretch molding the copolymer,

the optical compensating film having a relationship of three-dimensional refractive indexes of $nz \geq ny > nx$ in the case where the stretching direction is an x-axis within the film plane, the perpendicular direction to the x-axis within the film plane is a y-axis, and the vertical direction outside the film plane is a z-axis, nx stands for a refractive index in the x-axis direction, ny stands for a refractive index in the y-axis direction, and nz stands for a refractive index in the z-axis direction, and

the optical compensating film exhibiting negative birefringence.

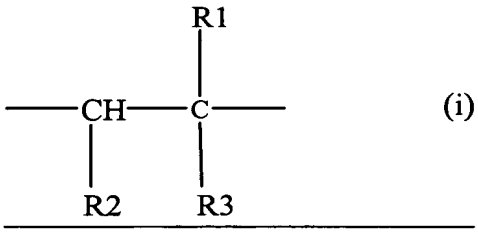
2. (Currently Amended) The ~~transparent heat-resistant resin~~ optical ~~material~~ compensating film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the copolymer consisting essentially of an olefin residue unit represented by the formula (i) and an N-phenyl-substituted maleimide reside unit represented by the formula (ii) is an alternating copolymer.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~transparent heat-resistant resin~~ optical ~~material~~ compensating film as claimed in claim 1, wherein the olefin residue unit represented by the formula (i) is a residue unit derived from isobutene; and the N-phenyl-substituted maleimide residue represented by the formula (ii) is a residue unit derived from one or more members selected from the group consisting of N-(2-methylphenyl)maleimide, N-(2,6-diethylphenyl)maleimide, and N-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)maleimide.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~transparent heat-resistant resin~~ optical ~~material~~ compensating film as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein the transparent heat-resistant resin optical material~~ which is a retardation film ~~or a sheet~~.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The transparent heat-resistant resin optical material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transparent heat-resistant resin optical material is an~~ An optical compensating film, comprising:

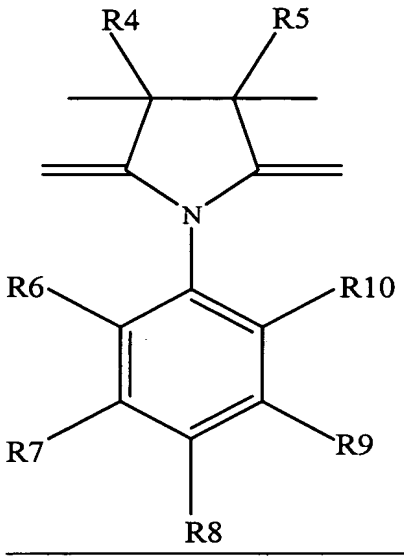
a copolymer consisting essentially of an olefin residue unit represented by the following formula (i):



(i)

wherein R1, R2, and R3 each represents hydrogen or an alkyl group having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and

an N-phenyl-substituted maleimide residue unit represented by the following formula (ii):



(ii)

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wherein

R4 and R5 each represents hydrogen or a linear or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms;

R7, R8, and R9 each represents hydrogen, a halogen based element, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a linear or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms; and

R6 and R10 each represents hydrogen, a halogen based element, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a linear or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and

when at least one of R6 or R10 represents hydrogen, the other should not be hydrogen but represent a halogen based element, a carboxylic acid, a carboxylic acid ester, a hydroxyl group, a cyano group, a nitro group, or a linear or branched alkyl group having from 1 to 8 carbon atoms,

the copolymer having a weight average molecular weight, as reduced into standard polystyrene, of from 5×10^3 to 5×10^6,

the optical compensating film being obtained by biaxially stretch molding the copolymer,

the optical compensating film having a relationship of three-dimensional refractive indexes of $nz > ny \geq nx$ or $nz > nx \geq ny$ in the case where the biaxial stretching directions are an x-axis within the film plane and a y-axis within the film plane, and the vertical direction outside the film plane is a z-axis, nx stands for a refractive index in the x-axis direction, ny stands for a refractive index in the y-axis direction, and nz stands for a refractive index in the z-axis direction, and

the optical compensating film exhibiting negative birefringence.

6-19. (Canceled)

20. (New): The optical compensating film as claimed in claim 5, wherein the copolymer consisting essentially of an olefin residue unit represented by the formula (i) and are N-phenyl-substituted maleimide reside unit represented by the formula (ii) is an alternating copolymer.

21 (New): The optical compensating film as claimed in claim 5, wherein the olefin residue unit represented by the formula (i) is a residue unit derived from isobutene; and the N-phenyl-substituted maleimide residue represented by the formula (ii) is a residue unit derived from one or more members selected from the group consisting of N-(2-methylphenyl)maleimide, N-(2,6-diethylphenyl)maleimide, and N-(2,6-diisopropylphenyl)maleimide.

22. (New): The optical compensating film as claimed in claim 5, which is a retardation film.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 6-19 have been canceled.

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended as supported by Claims 1 and 5 as originally filed and at pages 17, last paragraph to page 19, first paragraph and Figures 4 and 5, respectively.

New Claims 20-22 have been added as supported by Claims 2-4 as originally filed.

No new matter is believed to have been added by entry of this amendment. Entry and favorable reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of this amendment Claims 1-5 and 20-22 will now be active in this application.